

ABSTRACT

G-IIA-267

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(222)

1767 (mound site), 1886 (monument)

Markleysburg, Pennsylvania vicinity

Public/private

Set in 1886 at the site of an original Mason and Dixon mound of 1767, this large granite monument served as the northwest corner of Maryland from 1886 to 1910 when the present corner was established. It was the easternmost of points marked by C. H. Sinclair during his 1883-85 Resurvey of the West Virginia-Pennsylvania boundary, ^{is 55 2/10 miles from the southwest corner of Pennsylvania,} and was the northernmost point of the Deakins line run nearly a century before between Maryland and Virginia. Originally 16 inches square, dressed 3½ feet and rough cut 3½ feet with an underground "cube" of 16x16x16 inches, ^{in fair condition,} it remains unaltered, though now an irregular shape from extensive chipping, measures essentially 16 inches square by about 4 feet above ground, and is embellished only by the following inscriptions partially legible: on the north side facing Pennsylvania, PA/1885/55²/₁₀/MD; on the east side, MD|PA; on the south side (now facing Maryland), W VA|MD; and on the west side PA|W VA.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)

1. Name (indicate preferred name) *

historic (Mason and Dixon's) West Line

* and/or common Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 222)

2. Location

street & number east side of Thomas Road, Thomas Ridge ___ not for publication

city, town Markleysburg ☒ vicinity of congressional district MD: 6 / PA: 22

state Pennsylvania county MD: Garrett / PA: Fayette

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status N/A	Present Use	
___ district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: boundary marker

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

(monument and mound site only: see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)
name State of Maryland / Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

(see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

(also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

title Garrett County Historic Sites Inventory

date G-IIA-267 entered 9/4/81 ___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Survey No. G-IIA-267

Condition		Check one (monument)	Check one (monument & mound site)
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair (monument)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> gone (mound)	<input type="checkbox"/> date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resurvey of the West Virginia-Pennsylvania boundary
Milestone No. --- (222) ^{was} erected in 1886 by the Commissioners for the 1883-85. /
believed set in an original Mason and Dixon mound of 1767 / ^{and} marks a point on the
Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary about 1,051 feet east of the present northwest
corner of Maryland. The monument / ^{is} one of 30 Sinclair / ^{had the Commissioners set}
(Mason and Dixon / ^{western} terminus) and what he considered to be the northwest corner of
at the north end of the Peakins Line Maryland (No. 222), during his resurvey and marking of this
boundary. It is in fair condition, unaltered though misshapen from considerable
chipping, firmly in place; measures about 16 inches square by about 44 inches
high above ground, with an additional some 3 inches of the top (now dome-shaped
from chipping). It is embellished only by the following inscriptions, cut rather
primitively: / on the north side facing Pennsylvania, PA/1885/55 2/10/ MD; a single
line centered on the east side, MD|PA; a single line on the south side now facing
Maryland, [W|VA|MD; and a single line on the west side, [PA|W. VA]. There is no
longer any evidence of the mound, presumably graded away over time (possibly
during construction of the adjacent pipeline?)

The area here is the heavily wooded / ^{high} ridge that appears to connect Thomas Ridge
to the south / with Division Ridge to the north (elevation at the site about 2320 feet). The
site is within Election District 2 of Garrett County, MD, and Henry Clay Township
of Fayette County, PA; about 1½ miles southwest of the village of Markleysburg,
PA; about 1¾ miles northwest of the scattered settlement of Asher Glade, MD; at
a point about 12 feet east of Thomas Road at the southeast corner of an intersec on
of the road by the east-west / ^{Columbia} gas pipeline (No. 138-8) and about 17 feet south of
the pipeline, at the edge of a deciduous woods, a few feet northwest of a huge
tree. It can be seen easily from the road, all seasons; and though protected
from road maintenance and traffic by being about 4 feet above road grade level,
it has obviously been vulnerable to chipping (and target shooting, according to
local residents).

The monument, / ^{although} of the same kind of granite utilized for many of the / ¹⁸⁸³⁻⁸ monuments set
along the West Virginia-Pennsylvania boundary, is considerably larger than their
typical 12 inches square by about 16 inches high above ground. According to
Sinclair's Report to the Boundary Commission, January 15th 1886: the monument was
"16 inches square--dressed ¾ feet and rough cut ¾ feet. The underground cube is
16x16x16 inches" and was "19.45 miles distant and 333.53 feet north of the tangent."
(p. 427)

The letters and numbers are simple / ^{thin-line} inscriptions,
shallowly cut and by now, difficult to read (those no longer legible are indicated
in the first paragraph). The surfaces are all nicked and chipped, and large
chunks have been broken off the vertical edges since 1900-03. The long vertical
lines on the east, south and west sides, indicate / ^{Sinclair's determination of} the convergent boundaries of the
three states, and the rough-cut base is partially exposed.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for coverage of the
Sinclair Resurvey and summary descriptions of the variety of monuments set along
the West Virginia-Pennsylvania portion of the Mason-Dixon Line)

Note: for an excellent review of the Maryland-West Virginia boundary, see
Charles Morrison, The Western Boundary of Maryland (Parsons, WV, McClain Printi
Co., 1976). For original black and white photoprints and negatives of the
Sinclair Stone taken by W. C. Hodgkins, 1900, see the National Archives (Washington,
D.C.; Still Picture Branch, RG-23-G, Box 91, GJ-1068-1 & 4).

8. Significance

Survey No. G-IIA-267

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) boundary surveying

Specific dates 1767 (mound site) 1886 (monument) ~~Historic Architecture~~ SURVEYORS: Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Milestone No. ---(222) and the mound site are significant on the national and state levels primarily as being among the thematic group series of some 248 markers still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile English provincial boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This site was originally surveyed and marked in 1767 by a cairn, and the large granite monument set in the center of the remains of the cairn in 1886 following the 1883-85 Resurvey and marking of the West Virginia-Pennsylvania boundary by C. H. Sinclair, who ^{apparently} believed this point also marked the northern end of the Deakins (Maryland-West Virginia) ^{correct} line, thus ^{presumably} forming the northwest corner of Maryland --a presumption not accepted by Maryland. Locally, as among the some 42 markers along the present Garrett/Somerset-Fayette county boundary, No. ---(222) and the mound site are also significant symbolically for their identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties, as well as the ^{provincial-then-state} prolonged/controversy as to the ^{correct} Maryland-Virginia-then-West Virginia boundary, not agreed to by Maryland until 1912.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. G-IIA-267

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acreQuadrangle name Friendsville (MD-PA-WV), USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangle scale 1:24000
series (topographic), 1947 photorev. 1974UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

1	7	6	3	0	4	3	9	7
Zone		Easting			Northing			

B

Zone		Easting			Northing			

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification N/A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Maryland code county Garrett codestate Pennsylvania code county Fayette code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)organization Maryland Historical Trust and 10/24/80 &
Maryland Geological Survey date 9/5/81 (site surveyed)street & number 14308 Mount Avenue telephone (301) 472-2128city or town Phoenix state Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



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GJ 1068-1. GRANITE MONUMENT PLACED BY THE STATES OF PENNSYLVANIA AND WEST VIRGINIA IN 1885 TO MARK THE CORNER COMMON TO THEM AND THE STATE OF MARYLAND. THE STATE OF MARYLAND HAD NO PART IN LOCATING THE MONUMENT. W. C. HODGKINS, C&GS., CHIEF OF PARTY. 1900. NO SLIDE.

te 1900
...author *W.C.*
Negative? *Yell*
Lantern Slide?

Note: black-and-white photoprint and negative on file at the National Archives, Audiovisual Archives Division, Still Picture Branch, Washington, DC. 20408 (US Coast and Geodetic Survey Record Group 23-G, Box 91, GJ-1068-1). Part of this view was utilized by the 1900-03 Resurvey in Maryland Geological Survey Vol. VII, Plate III, Fig. 1 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1908).

**Name or
Number**

Location, Description, Etc.

Sinclair Stone within a hundred feet of the mound referred to above. Michler, in his work, sometimes referred to the Deakins line as "the old line." Whether in this case "old line" referred to the Mason and Dixon line or the Deakins line has not been ascertained. Another Mason and Dixon mound, approximately one mile west of the former, shown on the Michler map, is merely labelled "Mound."

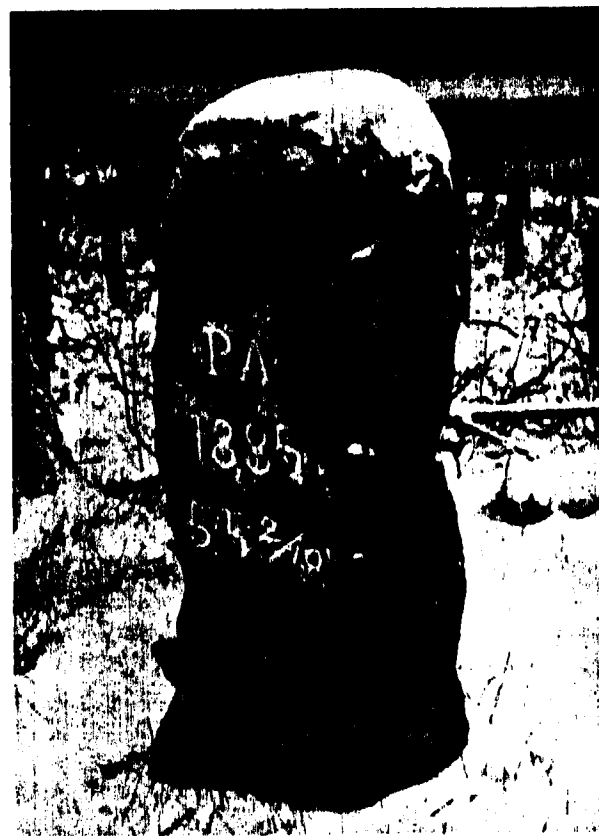
The Sinclair stone is described in the commissioners' journal, under date of August 11, 1911, as "... standing in what is believed to be an old Mason & Dixon Mound. The Stone is marked 1885-P.-Md-W.Va.-and 55 2/10 (miles)."

Sinclair Stone On the Mason and Dixon line 1,051 feet east of Monument No. 34, at the southeast corner of the intersection of Thomas Road and the pipeline right-of-way. A rough hewn granite monument set in an old Mason and Dixon mound in 1885 as a part of the work by C. H. Sinclair in the resurvey of the western extension of the Mason and Dixon line. Listed as Monument No. 222 in the Maryland Geological Survey Report, "Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania Boundary" (1908), and shown on maps of the U.S. Geological Survey by the same number.

The stone bears inscriptions to indicate that it was believed to mark the corner common to Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia, and the numerals 55 2/10, meaning that it was 55.2 miles from the southwest corner of Pennsylvania. (See photo, page 63.)

Although the western boundary of Maryland was still in dispute, Sinclair established the monument, probably in the belief that it was at the northern end of the Deakins line. Michler's map shows an "Old Line Mound" approximately 4,100 feet east of the Fairfax meridian, which would place it

*From the Commissioners' Report in 225 U.S. 1. See Bibliography. Other positions for Monument No. 34 are as follows: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1212, p. 137, 39°42'15.68" North Latitude, 79°28'37.53" West Longitude. The latitude figure is evidently in error, 39°43'15.68" being the likely number. The Mason and Dixon line, on which Monument No. 34 was erected, was intended by its surveyors to be along the parallel of latitude, 39°43'17.6". Subsequent observations at various places along that boundary have produced figures ranging from 39°43'13" to 39°43'19".



SINCLAIR STONE

On Thomas Road southwest of Markleysburg, Pennsylvania

Erected in 1885 by C. H. Sinclair in resurveying the western extension of the Mason and Dixon line. Although the western boundary of Maryland was still in dispute, Sinclair established the stone in an old Mason and Dixon mound which he believed marked the northern end of the Deakins line.

Other inscriptions and vertical lines, not visible in the picture, indicate the precise boundaries of the states Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia.

Although the Sinclair stone supposedly marked the northwest corner of Maryland, it was never accepted, nor did it play any direct part in the dispute between Maryland and West Virginia.

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE NO. — (222)



PHOTO: DR. A. L. TRUSSELL 9/5/48

MHS JOURNAL CALL. PP 2.5C.2



PHOTO: 9/5/48

MRS. ELSIE MARSDEN + DR. TRUSSELL
MHS JOURNAL CALL. PP 2.5C.1

RE: MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE; MILESTONE NO. — (222)

(2) BEW 5X7 GLOSSY PRINTS WERE TURNED IN
TO PETER KURTZE WITH THE NR MATERIALS

Alice Martin

(222)

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

STATE OF MARYLAND

SCALE: 1"=2000' MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SOMERSET 32 M
0.5 MI. TO U.S. 4

N

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

39°45'

629

100 000 FEET (MD.) 1.5 MI. TO U.S. 40

631000m. E.

27'30"

4400000m.N.

KINGWOOD 26 MI.
1.6 MI. TO W. VA. 26

100 FEET
(MD.)

4398

KINGWOOD 24 MI.
BRICETON MILLS 8.5 MI.

42'30

439

FAYETTE CO
PRESTON CO

PENNSYLVANIA 222
WEST VIRGINIA 34 MARYLAND

MASON AND

Thomas 22

Ridge

Asher Glade ^{BM}

